

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1689

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJECT: AGAIN THE BELGRADE EIGHT

REF: A) BELGRADE 6512 B) BELGRADE 4562

1. POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY MEMBER IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF
JAN 9 MADE FIRM PREDICTION BELGRADE EIGHT WOULD BE OUT OF THE
PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY ON JANUARY 15, NOTING SERBIAN ASSEMBLY
INVOLVEMENT IN THE MATTER.

2. PROFESSOR, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF BELGRADE UNIVERSITY
RECTOR JOVAN GILGORIJEVIC, DESCRIBED LATTER AS "REDUCED TO TEARS"
IN ENCOUNTER FOUR WEEKS AGO OVER PROSPECT OF COMING EXPULSION OF
EIGHT AS BLOT ON HIS LAST MONTHS AS RECTOR.

3. JAN 8 BORBA COMMENTARY ATTACKED "LATEST ANTI-YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN"
TYING THIS TO "ARTICLES IN INDIVIDUAL WESTERN PAPERS". AUTHOR
PRIMARILY HITS ALLEGATIONS OF YUGOSLAV INSTABILITY, BUT ALSO NOTED
THE EFFORTS OF CERTAIN WESTERNERS "TO TRANSFORM SEVERAL BELGRADE
PHILOSOPHERS INTO VEHICLES OF STRIVING FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM."
HE CONTINUED: "IN THE OPERATION OF ATTACKS ON SOCIALIST YUGOSLAVIA
THEY ARE THEIR ALLIES AND COLLABORATORS IN TRANSPARENT COMBINATIONS
OF WRITING AND PLANTING VARIOUS KINDS OF LETTERS, OFFICIAL "PROTESTS"

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INTERVENTIONS AND SECOND-HAND INFORMATION."

4. COMMENT: WHILE FACULTY SOURCE IS NOT NECESSARILY PRIVY TO INSIDE INFORMATION ON EFFORT TO OUST EIGHT, PARAGRAPH 1 IS EVIDENCE THAT SOME IN UNIVERSITY NOW ASSESS THIS AS IMMINENT POSSIBILITY. COMMENT ON GLIGORIJEVIC IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IN VIEW OF LATTER'S PREVIOUS ENTHUSIASTIC DEFENSE OF UNIVERSITY ACQUITTAL OF EIGHT LAST SUMMER AND ATTACK ON OUTSIDE EFFORTS TO REMOVE PROFESSORS (REF B). THIS JOINS OTHER INDICATIONS THAT GLIGORIJEVIC, FOR ONE, IS OPPOSED TO REMOVAL OF EIGHT.

5. BORBA COMMENT IS SECOND ATTACK IN RECENT WEEKS ON WESTERN SUPPORT FOR BELGRADE EIGHT (REF A). WE CONSIDER IT A FAIR INDICATION OF THE OFFICIAL REACTION TO BE EXPECTED TO ANY WESTERN PROTESTS IF AND WHEN THE EIGHT ARE ACTUALLY REMOVED FROM THEIR TEACHING POSITIONS.
TOON

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